

Appln No. 10/693,869
Amdt. Dated April 12, 2005
Response to Office Action of March 10, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

AMENDMENT

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of March 10, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment to the claims and the below Remarks directed thereto.

The Applicant has updated Page 1 of the specification with a corrected paragraph pertaining to cross references to related applications. The Applicant submits that these amendments introduce no new matter.

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the present application. In the Amendment:

independent claims 1 and 8 are amended to specify that the array of printhead chips define a stationary pagewidth printhead(s) which prints onto the ink transfer roller(s) as the transfer roller(s) rotates. Support for this amendment can be found at page 3, lines 7-12, page 8, lines 1-7, page 13, lines 16-25 and page 14, lines 2-26 of the present specification;

new claim 9 is added, dependent from amended claim 1, reciting that the array of printhead chips has a sealing arrangement defined thereabout and that the ink reservoir arrangement is operatively arranged to, during a printing operation, maintain a spaced relationship of the array of printhead chips and the transfer roller, and, during a non-printing operation, place the array of printhead chips against the transfer roller so that the printhead chips are sealed by the sealing arrangement and transfer roller. Support for this amendment can be found at page 14, lines 10-13 of the present specification; and

pending claims 2-7 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of pending claims 2-7.

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35 USC 102(b) Rejection

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended claim 1 is not disclosed by Titterington et al. (USP 5,645,888) for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the array of printhead chips define a stationary pagewidth printhead 143 which prints onto the ink transfer roller 68 as the transfer roller rotates. By printing onto the rotating transfer roller the printer of the present invention is able to print at high speed and quality, since the constant rotation of the transfer roller to effect printing eliminates the occurrence of discontinuities in the printing (see page 3, lines 7-12, page 8, lines 1-7, page 9, lines 3-5, page 13, lines 16-25 and page 14, lines 2-26 of the present specification).

Titterington does not disclose such an arrangement. Rather, Titterington employs a printhead 11 which prints in raster fashion, i.e., a scanning printhead. As such, in the printing system 10 of Titterington the printhead 11 is scanned across the rigid support 14 to print ink thereon whilst the rigid support is stationary. The rigid support would then be rotated in a stepwise fashion to print multiple lines and transfer the ink to the final receiving substrate 28 (see col. 6, line 12-col. 7, line 49 of Titterington).

Further, there is no suggestion from the disclosure of Titterington for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the disclosed arrangement to use a stationary pagewidth printhead in place of the scanning printhead 11.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 and 9 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggested by Titterington.

35 USC 103(a) Rejection

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Titterington in view of Eguchi (USP 4,739,703) for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

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As discussed above, claim 8 has been amended similar to amended claim 1, to specify that the array of printhead chips define a stationary pagewidth printhead for each ink reservoir arrangement which print onto the ink transfer rollers as the transfer rollers rotate.

There is no motivation from the disclosure of Eguchi to modify the disclosed arrangement of Titterington in the manner of amended claim 8. This is because, Eguchi does not teach or suggest providing stationary pagewidth printheads arranged to print onto the transfer rollers as the rollers rotate.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 8 is not taught or suggested by Titterington either taken alone or in combination with Eguchi.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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